

Hello,

My name is Don Nicodemus. I was speaker #5 at the May 19, Auburn hearing of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. I also spoke to the Commission at the hearing at Laney College on May 24. This "Mountain Redistricting Plan" is not currently supported by any organized nonprofit (the time could not be found to contact the multiple chapters in the areas covered), but comes from my experience living in the Sierras, working as a U.S. Census Field Operations Supervisor, and having been educated in the "Policy and Science of Energy and Water" at UC Berkeley.

I said that I would be sending an equivalency file called a Mountain Redistricting Plan. The separate State Senate file (also attached) is part of the plan. This plan draws some Assembly and some State Senate Districts for the Sierras, the Delta, most of the Central Valley, and the north coastal range. This was done with an eye toward maintaining environmental communities of interest that are concerned with protecting sensitive resources. A Tahoe Congressional District composed of the rural area around Lake Tahoe is also envisioned, but a file has not been submitted for that district. Exclude the suburbs and include small towns like Oroville, Placerville, Auburn, Chico, Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Mammoth Lakes.

The Delta would be in Assembly Districts in Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Solano Counties. All these counties have an interest in protecting the Delta. The Tahoe Basin and Yosemite National Park are in two different, mostly-rural Assembly Districts, but these districts do not include large suburbs that would tend to dominate the smaller towns in these rural districts. This is the problem with the current (2001) Assembly District 4 which I spoke about in the written testimony I submitted on May 19, basically the suburbanites swamp the folks in small town.

The division of Assembly Districts in El Dorado County works well. El Dorado Hills fits well with Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova and other communities in Sacramento County south of Highway 50 and the American River. It is not part of the metropolitan complex of cities like Citrus Height, Folsom, Orangevale, or the City of Sacramento itself. This plan calls for a similar division of Placer County in its two assembly districts.

In the State Senate plan most Assemble Districts are nested into Senate Districts. The Tahoe Basin Assembly District and the Sacramento County Delta Assembly District (with the more rural parts of the County) are connected in one State Senate District because they are part of one watershed -- the American River as it empties in to the Delta.

I want to thank all the commissioner and staff for your kind consideration and openness to public testimony.

Best Regards,

Don Nicodemus

